

The building in George-street, Mansion-house Place, is not an addition to, or part of, the banking-house of Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Co., as was artfully represented on the hearing of this cause, and which, no doubt, had its effect upon the Vice-Chancellor; for, to use his own words, "to do as little injury as possible," he withheld the full injunction which, at the outset of his address, he appeared inclined to grant. The premises in question belong, it is true, to Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths, and have been superintended during their erection by Mr. Beadnell, their principal clerk; Mr. Flower, the architect of the Gresham Club-house adjoining, giving his friendly aid, in the absence of a professional engagement. One of the partners in the house of Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Co., had satisfactorily used our patent revolving iron shutters in his private residence (of which Messrs. Cubitt and Co. were the builders), and had, in conjunction with Mr. Beadnell, decided on their being also used in this building; Mr. Flower also strongly recommended their adoption. The intentions of these gentlemen were, however, frustrated by a clerk in the employ of Messrs. Cubitt and Co., the builders; who, without their knowledge, or that of any of the parties concerned, applied to the defendant, and agreed to introduce eight shutters of his make; an infringement of our patent, which has led to these proceedings.

Messrs. Cubitt and Co.'s clerk stated, in explanation of his conduct, that he had not space enough for our (Bunnett and Corpe's patent) shutters, and had, therefore, adopted those of Mr. Smith (not one of a similar make having been previously put up by him), which were represented as taking up less room. It was proved, however, by the affidavits, and is well known to most builders and architects, that our patent shutters for windows 6 feet 6 inches high (the dimensions of those in question) occupy a space, when wound upon the roller, of $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches only. The space available in the building referred to is nearly 10 inches! and the shutters put up by Mr. Smith actually occupy a space, when wound upon the roller, of $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches. *One inch and a quarter more than our patent shutters, for which (according to Messrs. Cubitt and Co.'s clerk) there was not room!!!*

Much pains were taken to impress upon the Court, and it was repeatedly stated in the defendant's affidavits, that a great saving of room would be effected by the defendant's form of shutter, whereas in the case at issue they really do; and must inevitably under any circumstances, occupy at least *one-eighth more space* than our patent shutters. As in the attempted evasion of our patent by substituting one sort of hinge for another, and by turning our raising gear upside down, we leave that question to be decided by the pending proceedings. We not only deny that any advantage can result from such miscaled *improvements*, either in strength, durability, or economy of space; but we pledge ourselves, backed by the practical experience of eight years of the most extensive employment in the manufacture of revolving iron shutters, that our patent shutters are in every respect superior to those put up by Mr. Smith, and that far from any economy of space resulting from his arrangement, it is the reverse; in the majority of windows his plan would be altogether inadmissible, and is at best a most unmechanical arrangement.

That Messrs. Cubitt and Co. gave orders for the eight shutters in question, from a conviction of their superiority over our own patent shutter, is wholly false, as both Mr. Cubitt and his partner Mr. Alchin assured Mr. Bunnett that they knew not of Smith's shutters being used at the building until apprized of that fact by Messrs. Bunnett and Corpe. So much for the superiority of the defendant Smith's shutters being "evidenced by the selection of Messrs. Cubitt and Co.!"

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,
Lombard-street, BUNNETT and CORPE.
July 29th.

[The account given in our last number was brought to the printing-office at a very late hour on the night previous to publication, and we were not aware of its containing any thing beyond a mere report.—Ed.]

SHAM COMPETITION.—DERRY PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM.

SIR,—I trust you will not withhold from your columns the other communications which you mention having received on the subject of the Derby Asylum and the Southwell Church competitions; as, provided they be concise and to the purpose, the stronger the case of direct favouritism is made out, the better it will be as a lesson for our guidance in like matters for the future.

The very reason which deterred your correspondent "P." from entering on the first-named competition, actuated myself, and I believe the facts to be as stated in his letter. At any rate, the influence possessed by the parties who obtained both the first and the second premium was such as to deter any one cognizant of it from bestowing any time or attention on the subject.

As regards the second competition (for the church at Southwell), many of your readers can vouch for the time which such men as Sir R. Smirke, Mr. Hardwick, and Mr. Tite, have devoted to the examination of designs referred in recent instances to the professional judgment of these gentlemen, by committees who had some decent sense of their own incompetency to enter fairly into the question of deciding.

These three professional gentlemen certainly devoted more than one, two, or three sittings to the numerous drawings submitted to them before they made their awards.

We know by a letter from the party to whom application for particulars was addressed, that more than one hundred such applications were made (for the terms of the advertisement were calculated to mislead the unwary). Now, supposing that only fifty designs were actually sent in, and valuing them at the moderate average worth of only ten guineas each for *time and actual outlay* bestowed on them, here are 500 guineas thrown away, to please whom? A set of somebodies writing themselves a committee. Of a truth, their haste in deciding and returning the rejected drawings clears them of any possible suspicion of having paid particular attention to any of them for the purpose of culling something new for the fortunate pre-selected one; and of this negative praise, at any rate, we may let them take their full benefit. But, Sir, who constitute this committee?—and who is the party whose name appeared in the advertisement? His letters were written in a very *epicure* hand, and he did not so much as claim to himself the distinction of Hon. Sec., as usual in similar cases.

Are there any such people in Southwell as speculative dabblers in bricks and mortar, to whom designs, "*furnished gratuitously*," might be ready-money hints for their own interested purposes?

Is it not "too bad," that artifices should be resorted to in building an edifice for religious purposes, which an individual would neither imagine nor venture to employ in erecting one destined for his own *secular employments*?

Can any of your readers favour me with the information, whose design was selected for the "Hardy Testimonial" near Dorchester? I believe that due time was allowed in that instance for all interested to inspect the designs which were exhibited to the public in Dorchester. It is somewhat remarkable that information, such as that asked above, is almost always omitted when the competition drawings are returned to their respective authors.

Your constant Reader, Φ.

July 22, 1844.

[We think it unnecessary to insert the additional letters alluded to.—Ed.]

PREMIUM FOR THE PREVENTION OF SMOKY CHIMNEYS.

SIR,—It is generally known by the readers of your journal that you are at all times desirous of doing a duty to the multitude, by informing them of new discoveries, inventions, and improvements, thus benefiting the millions in all countries on the globe. I am pleased to find nearly every day some paragraphs announcing new discoveries, improvements, or experiments for improvements.

The improvements in arts and science, machinery, &c. in modern times are astonishing; and going along the streets of London, beautiful designs of ornaments are met with;

* See the original advertisement in the Times newspaper. This part of it did not appear in THE BUILDER.

and the pleasing façades of some of the buildings erected a few years since seem to prophesy that we are very near to a second golden age.

A few days ago I came along the new town of London called Hyde Park Gardens, and I was much pleased to see that the architects in general are anxious not only to imitate, but to outdo, the ancient Grecians, Romans, &c., in the decoration of buildings. I could not help thinking that the inmates must perceive the pleasure the passers-by feel, in looking at the nice façades of their dwellings; but, by looking above the parapets, I found that the inmates of the well-formed and ornamental buildings are not as comfortable as I imagined, because some of the lofty rooms contain bad atmosphere.

The question of your readers may be, "how can a person, in passing a house, know if there is inside a good or bad atmosphere?" In answering this question, I say that every person can see this, by looking over the parapets, at the wonders of the invented ornaments upon the chimney-pots! If the atmosphere in the rooms were pure, as it ought to be, no such nuisances would be seen. When I saw the hundreds of newly-invented apparatus—cows, pipes, caps, and the strange bent figures of pipes in a row, like soldiers, when sitting on a pole in the field behind a tent, I felt very much annoyed, and was certain that the rooms contained an impure atmosphere. Of what use is the well-designed and ornamented façade to the inmates, if their health be undermined by noxious atmosphere?

From thence, I went down Hyde Park and the Green Park to St. James's Palace, and I saw the same nuisances upon St. James's Palace, as well as upon Buckingham Palace, and other buildings in their immediate neighbourhood. At Charing-cross and Trafalgar-square the same mischief is disgracing the place.

When I arrived in the City and close to the Bank, the New Exchange, with its majestic portico, made me forget the nuisance at Hyde Park Gardens, and other places mentioned, because the chimneys were free from disfigurement. In going along the Bank towards the Sun Fire Office, a most splendid façade met my eyes; but lo! what a disagreeable impression did a glance over its parapet produce!—A most ridiculous invention presented itself upon the chimney-pot. The said inventors were not satisfied with a simple or single ventilator (like a certain doctor, an experimentalist, with one large cow), no; they put one disgraceful disfigurement upon another.

I hope the architect of the New Exchange will take care to introduce only such fire-grates into the building as will require no such disgusting disfigurement for the draught of smoke. It is indeed an annoyance to look at such crooked figures as are fixed upon the chimney-pots of the new Bank Buildings, and many other edifices.

That the science requisite for avoiding with certainty such disfigurements is at present unknown to the human race, is proved by the facts mentioned; and particularly through the fact lately produced by some men of science, who have introduced stoves with which the pure atmosphere is changed into noxious vapour, whereby the health of the people is undermined and destroyed, and to which chimney-pots are required to create a draught for the smoke; and by experimentalists, who, feigning to know the science of ventilation, nevertheless set the lives of useful beings in danger through could draughts or noxious atmosphere. And such experimentalists attempt to teach the people the science of warming and ventilation!

Architects would never permit any person to disfigure their masterly works if there were a book in existence in which could be found the knowledge how to construct fire-places and chimneys so perfectly that the smoke would escape through ornamented chimneys as well as through the disfigurements already mentioned.

I do not think it impossible that the science, of avoiding and removing the nuisance in question, exists in nature, and that an offer of a high premium might lead to the discovery.

I therefore pray, in the name of the millions, and particularly in the name of those ladies who are confined to their rooms, and are obliged to inhale the poisonous effluvia from their fire-places, and suffer from illness